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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT

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2625

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-31 are pending.

- Amendment made to the specification filed on 3/1/04 has been considered and entered by the examiner.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/1/04 has been considered and entered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claimed invention is a computer related invention. The Computer-Implemented Invention Guidelines issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office describe the procedures for examining such inventions.

The first step is to determine whether the invention as defined by the claims falls within one of the three following categories of unpatentable subject matter: (1) Functional descriptive material such as a data structure *per se* or a computer program *per se*, (2) Non-functional descriptive material such as music, literary works or pure data, embodied on a computer readable medium; or (3) A natural phenomenon such as energy or magnetism. The invention as defined by the claims is not a natural phenomenon or pure data, however, it is a computer program *per se*, which does not mount/store on any computer-readable medium; therefore, these claims are rejected for non-statutory basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 12-13, 19-23, 26-28, 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist et al (US 5615015) in view of Hadewe (EP 628357A1).

Regarding claim 1, Krist discloses a method for generating and finishing documents comprising:

converting a first data file in a first format, which data file describes the content of at least one document, into a second data file in a second format (converting from first format to second format, col. 11, lines 1-10), comprising image defining instructions and other instructions for finishing said at least one document (col. 10, lines 64-67; col. 11, lines 1-8 & 16-30).

However, Krist does not clearly disclose processing said second data file into a processed second data file, whereby said image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document, and whereby said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions for finishing said at least one document, thereafter driving equipment for generating and finishing said at least one document in accordance with said driving instructions; generating and finishing at least one document by means of said equipment in accordance with said driving instructions.

Hadewe, in the same field of endeavor for a printing system with plurality of instructions to process a document, teaches processing said second data file into a processed second data file, whereby said image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document, and whereby said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions (col. 3, lines 16-33) for finishing said at least one document, thereafter

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driving equipment for generating and finishing said at least one document in accordance with said driving instructions; generating and finishing at least one document by means of said equipment in accordance with said driving instructions (col. 3, lines 16-33; col. 6, lines 46-58, and col. 7, lines 1-2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Krist's printing system to include finishing instructions as taught by Hadewe in order to provide an efficient method to indicate how a document to be mailed is assembled.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Krist with Hadewe to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said image defining instructions are formed by instructions for driving a printing apparatus (col. 7, lines 28-37).

Regarding claim 3, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said driving instructions for generating documents comprise instructions for printing documents and are fed to a printing apparatus, and wherein said driving instructions for finishing documents comprise instructions for finishing physical documents printed by said printing apparatus and are fed, separately from said driving instructions for generating documents, to a system for finishing physical documents, and wherein documents are printed by said printing apparatus in accordance with said instructions for finishing physical documents (col. 6, lines 46-58).

Regarding claim 4, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 3, wherein said documents are delivered from said printing apparatus directly to said system for finishing physical documents (col. 7, lines 28-39 and fig. 1).

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Regarding claim 5, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 3, wherein said documents are fed one by one from said printing apparatus to said system for finishing physical documents (col. 7, lines 28-39 and fig. 1).

Regarding claim 7, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein, in processing said second data file, associated finishing instructions are generated (col. 3, lines 56-67 and col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 9, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 7, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises selecting equipment for generating and finishing documents (col. 8, lines 47-58).

Regarding claim 12, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein the processing of said second data file comprises verifying at least a portion of said driving instructions (col. 11, lines 15-23).

Regarding claim 13, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein the processing of said second data file comprises processing at least a portion of said image defining instructions (col. 11, lines 15-23). Verifying the instruction is considered a form of processing.

Regarding claim 19, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein the processing of said image defining instructions into said execute format comprises converting image defining instructions in a first printing apparatus language into image defining instructions in a second printing apparatus language (col. 3, lines 56-67, col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 20, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said image defining instructions comprise at least two separately executable sets of image

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defining instructions each comprising image defining instructions for printing an individual page (col. 3, lines 56-67 and col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 21, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of documents including electronic and physical documents are generated. Fig. 1 of Krist shows that document is submitted to printer. But as shown in fig. 10, controller can transmit the document to print server and fax server to generate electronic document as well.

Regarding claim 22, which recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 1 above; therefore, claim 22 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 1.

Regarding claim 23, Krist further teaches system according to claim 22, wherein said data processor structure comprises a first data processor station and a second data processor station, which data processor stations are mutually coupled for transferring data from said first data processor station to said second data processor station, wherein said first data processor station is arranged for providing a first data file in at least one first format, for describing the content of documents; for converting said first data file in said first format into said second data file in said second format; and for transferring said second data file to said second data processor station; wherein said second data processor station is arranged for said processing of said second data file into a processed second data file and is operatively connected with said equipment for generating and finishing documents for driving said equipment (fig. 2).

Regarding claim 26, which recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 3 above; therefore, claim 26 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 3.

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Regarding claims 27-28, Krist further teaches a system, wherein said printing apparatus and said processing equipment each have a control unit (fig. 5) of their own, and wherein said each control units each have a port of their own for communication with an external data processor (fig. 5). In addition, it is well known that each printer or processing equipment is having its own CPU.

Regarding claim 30, Krist further teaches a system according to claim 22, wherein said equipment for generating and finishing document comprises equipment for generating and finishing physical documents (fig. 1 shows a system for processing and completing digital images into physical documents) and equipment for generating and finishing electronic documents.

Regarding claim 31: Claim 31 recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 1 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium for storing computer programs, hence claim 31 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 1 above.

Claims 6 & 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claims 1 & 22 above (respectively), and further in view of Salgado (US 5777882).

Regarding claim 6, combinations of Krist and Hadewe do not teach a method, wherein the supply of driving instructions to said printing apparatus is carried out in accordance with receiving capacity representing signals coming from said system for finishing physical documents.

Salgado, in the same field of endeavor for printing and handling document, teaches a method for using different capacity output bins based on the size of the job. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to use Salgado's invention to properly handle different size printing jobs.

Regarding claim 29, which recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 6 above; therefore, claim 29 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 6.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Girard (US 6393135).

Regarding claim 8, combinations of Krist and Hadewe do not teach and/or suggest a method, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises determining franking values.

Girard, in the same field of endeavor for printing and handling mail pieces, teaches a well-known method for determining franking values (postage value, col. 7, lines 41-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Krist and Hadewe to include a method for determining franking values as taught by Girard in order to provide an efficient method to determine an exact amount of postage value for mail pieces.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Krist and Hadewe with Girard to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Gombault et al (US 5283752).

Regarding claim 10, combinations of Krist and Hadewe do not teach and/or suggest a method, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises determining imprints on envelopes in accordance with associated image defining instructions for printing documents.

Gombault, in the same field of endeavor for printing and handling mail pieces, teaches a well-known method determining imprints on envelopes in accordance with

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associated image defining instructions for printing documents (preparing an item to be mailed including an address printer, col. 2, lines 1-14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Krist and Hadewe to include a method for determining imprints on envelopes in accordance with associated image defining instructions for printing documents as taught by Gombault in order to provide an efficient method to print an address on an envelope.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Krist and Hadewe with Gombault to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Regarding claim 11, Gombault further teaches a method, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises compiling transmittal data concerning a group of documents (col. 4, lines 31-48). Documents to be signed are considered the group of documents.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Taylor (US 5245545).

Regarding claim 14, combinations of Krist and Hadewe fail to teach and/or suggest a method, wherein the processing of at least a portion of said image defining instruction comprises reading at least portions of said image defining instructions and sorting sets of said image defining instructions each associated with a particular document, in accordance with said portions read.

Taylor, in the same field of endeavor for printing and handling mail pieces, teaches a method for reading at least portions of said image defining instructions and sorting sets of said image defining instructions each associated with a particular document, in accordance with said portions read (sorting the mail piece according to zip code, col. 3, lines 13-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Krist and Hadewe to include teaches a method for reading at least portions of said image defining instructions and sorting sets of said image

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defining instructions each associated with a particular document, in accordance with said portions read as taught by Taylor in order to provide an efficient method for delivery the mail pieces by sorting the mail piece according to zip code.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Krist and Hadewe with Taylor to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14.

Claims 15-18, 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Maritzen et al (US 5899990).

Regarding claim 15, combinations of Krist and Hadewe fails to teach and/or suggest a method, wherein said instructions for processing said second data file into said processed second data file are inputted a universal interactive client server operating interface.

Miritzen, in the same field of endeavor for obtaining data, manipulating the data and relays the data, teaches a method for processing said second data file into said processed second data file are inputted a universal interactive client server operating interface (universal application programmer interface, col. 3, lines 5-8, and 38-42). In case of Hadewe and Krist, image data and finishing data are obtained, manipulated by converting formats and sent to finisher for processing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention to combine the universal API of Maritzen with the printing and finishing machines of Hadewe and Krist to reduce the amount of coding and development time.

Regarding claim 16, Maritzen further teaches a method according to claim 15, wherein said interface comprises web browser software (col. 5, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 17, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 15, wherein said second data file, at least prior to the processing, is free of finishing instructions (col. 3, lines 56-67 and col. 4, lines 1-10).

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Regarding claim 18, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 15, wherein said processed second data file comprises: a first subfile containing image defining instructions, a second subfile containing associated finishing instructions and reference instructions which couple said image defining instructions to associated ones of said finishing instructions (col. 3, lines 56-67 and col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claims 24-25, which recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claims 15-16 above; therefore, claims 24-25 are rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claims 15-16.

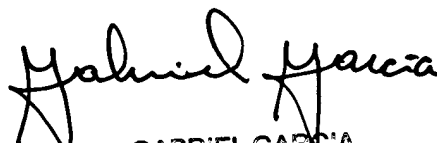
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER